

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Taichi AKIBA
Title: OPTICAL PICKUP DEVICE
Appl. No.: 10/593,905
International Filing Date: 3/18/2005
371(c) Date: 09/22/06
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: 2627
Confirmation Number: 5810

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56.

A copy of each non-U.S. patent document and each non-patent document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to

antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

Documents A2 and A3 listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 were cited in a Japanese Decision of a Patent Grant issued in a counterpart Japanese application on July 7, 2009. According to an English translation of the Japanese Decision of a Patent Grant obtained by Applicant's representative, the Japanese Patent Office made certain characterizations of the references. A copy of the Japanese Decision of a Patent Grant and the English-language translation thereof is attached.

Copies of JP Patent Document Nos. 5-234241, 7-225958, 11-259885, 2003-123271, and 2002-157758 cited in the Japanese Decision of a Patent Grant are not being provided since they were previously submitted to the United States Patent & Trademark Office in the above-identified application on September 22, 2006.

Documents A1 and A3 belong to the same "patent family," whereby the English language document may assist the PTO in understanding the content of the non-English language document.

Unless otherwise indicated, no English translation is readily available (not considering machine-generated translations that may be freely available online, to both the Applicants and the

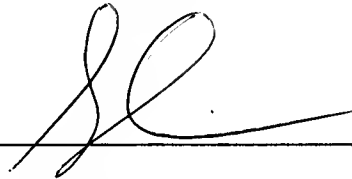
PTO) for each of the non-English language documents. However, a commercially available English language abstract is provided herewith, where indicated on the attached Form PTO/SB/08. Inasmuch as Applicants have endeavored to provide at least one item that complies with the requirement for a "concise explanation of relevance" for each of the non-English language documents, each of these documents has been submitted in compliance with the PTO requirements and should be considered by the Examiner (37 CFR §1.97, §1.98 and MPEP §609).

Applicant respectfully requests that each listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Although Applicant believes that no fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be due to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'GLL', is written over a horizontal line.

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Date: August 6, 2009

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